AMENDMENT

Please replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application with the following Listing of Claims.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:

receiving an input signal associated with a virtual touch at a <u>first</u> communication device, the <u>first</u> communication device including a user-interface member and an actuator<u>, whereby the virtual touch originates from a second communication device operated by a user to communicate the virtual touch to the first communication device</u>;

outputting<u>,</u> a request at the <u>first</u> communication device, [[the]] <u>a </u>request relating to <u>initiate</u> a contact with the user-interface member to receive the virtual touch;

<u>receiving the contact;</u> and

providing a control signal to the actuator in response to the contact with the user-interface member, the control signal configured to cause the actuator to output a haptic effect associated with the virtual touch at the user-interface member.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising extracting a haptic code from the
input signal, the control signal being based at least in part on the haptic code.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user-interface member includes one of a key, a button, a key pad, a direction pad, a touch screen, a scroll wheel, a mini-joystick, a trackball, and a knob.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the virtual touch is associated with one of a handshake, a high-five, a pat on the back, a pulse sensation, a heartbeat sensation, and a pet purring sensation.

5. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:

receiving a virtual touch indicator and a virtual touch signal at a first communication device, whereby the virtual touch signal originates from a second communication device operated by a user to communicate the virtual touch to the first communication device;

performing an initialization responsive to the virtual touch indicator on a handheld the first communication device; and

outputting a control signal associated with the virtual touch signal to an actuator coupled to the handheld the first communication device after performing the initialization.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein the actuator is configured to output a haptic effect to a user-interface member coupled to the handheld first communication device.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the user-interface member includes one of a key, a button, a key pad, a direction pad, a touch screen, a scroll wheel, a mini-joystick, a trackball, and a knob.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein the initialization includes outputting a request relating to initiate a contact with the user-interface member.

9. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the virtual touch signal is associated with a manipulation of a remote user-interface member.

10. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium containing executable instructions which cause a data processing system to perform a method, the method comprising:

receiving an input signal associated with a virtual touch at a first communication device, the first communication device including a user-interface member and an actuator, whereby the virtual touch originates from a second

communication device operated by a user to communicate the virtual touch to the first communication device;

outputting, a request at the first communication device, [[the]] a request relating to initiate a contact with the user-interface member to receive the virtual touch;

receiving the contact; and

providing a control signal in response to the contact with the user-interface member to the actuator, the control signal configured to cause the actuator to output a haptic effect associated with the virtual touch at the user-interface member.

11. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 10 further comprising extracting a haptic code from the input signal, the control signal being based at least in part on the haptic code.

12. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 10 wherein the virtual touch is associated with one of a handshake, a high-five, a pat on the back, a pulse sensation, a heartbeat sensation, and a pet purring sensation.

13. (Currently amended) A tangible computer-readable storage medium containing executable instructions which cause a data processing system to perform a method, the method comprising:

receiving a virtual touch indicator and a virtual touch signal at a first communication device, whereby the virtual touch signal originates from a second communication device operated by a user to communicate the virtual touch to the first communication device;

performing an initialization responsive to the virtual touch indicator on [[a]] the first communication device; and

outputting a control signal associated with the virtual touch signal to an actuator after performing the initialization.

14. (Currently Amended) The <u>tangible</u> computer-readable storage medium of claim 13 wherein the actuator is configured to output a haptic effect to a user-interface member coupled to the ~~handheld~~ <u>first</u> communication device.

15. (Currently Amended) The <u>tangible</u> computer-readable storage medium of claim 14 wherein the user-interface member includes one of a key, a button, a key pad, a direction pad, a touch screen, a scroll wheel, a mini-joystick, a trackball, and a knob.

16. (Currently Amended) The <u>tangible</u> computer-readable storage medium of claim 13 wherein the initialization includes outputting a request ~~relating~~ to <u>initiate a</u> contact with the user-interface member.

17 - 18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

    a user-interface member coupled to a body;

    a processor;

    an actuator coupled to the body and in communication with the processor; and

    a memory in communication with the processor, the memory storing instructions ~~executable by the processor, including:~~ <u>configuring the processor to:</u>

        ~~instructions for receiving~~ <u>receive</u> an input signal associated with a virtual touch at the apparatus<u>, whereby the virtual touch originates from a second apparatus operated by a user to communicate the virtual touch to the apparatus</u>;

        ~~instructions for outputting~~ <u>output</u> a request ~~relating~~ to <u>initiate a</u> contact with the user-interface member to receive the virtual touch;

        <u>receive an indication that the contact was made;</u> and

        ~~instructions for providing~~ <u>provide</u> a control signal associated with the contact to the actuator, the control signal configured to cause the actuator to output a haptic effect associated with the virtual touch at the user-interface member.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the body is included in a handheld communication device.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the handheld communication device includes one of a cellular phone, a satellite phone, a cordless phone, a personal digital assistant, a pager, a two-way radio, a portable computer, a game console controller, a personal gaming device, and an MP3 player.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the user-interface member includes at least one of a key, a button, a key pad, a direction pad, a touch screen, a scroll wheel, a mini-joystick, a trackball, and a knob.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the virtual touch is associated with one of a handshake, a high-five, a pat on the back, a pulse sensation, a heartbeat sensation, and a pet purring sensation.

24. (Currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

    a user-interface member;

    a processor;

    an actuator coupled to the a user-interface member and in communication with the processor; and

    a memory in communication with the processor, the memory storing instructions ~~executable by the processor, including:~~ configuring the processor to:

        ~~instructions for receiving~~ receive a virtual touch indicator and a virtual touch signal, whereby the virtual touch signal originates from a second apparatus operated by a user to communicate the virtual touch to the apparatus;

        ~~instructions for performing~~ perform an initialization responsive to the virtual touch indicator; and

        ~~instructions for outputting~~ output a control signal associated with the virtual touch signal to the actuator after performing the initialization.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the user-interface member is coupled to a handheld communication device.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the handheld communication device includes one of a cellular phone, a satellite phone, a cordless phone, a personal digital assistant, a pager, a two-way radio, a portable computer, a game console controller, a personal gaming device, and an MP3 player.

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the user-interface member includes at least one of a key, a button, a key pad, a direction pad, a touch screen, a scroll wheel, a mini-joystick, a trackball, and a knob.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the virtual touch signal is associated with a manipulation of a remote user-interface member.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the virtual touch indicator is one or more of a haptic code or a message.

30. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13 wherein the virtual touch indicator is one or more of a haptic code or a message.